



EXHIBIT 5
DATE 2/5/07
HB 343

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
555 CAPITOL MALL, SUITE 625
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
(916) 446-2455 voice • (916) 448-7469 fax
www.nraila.org

STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
BRIAN JUDY, MONTANA STATE LIAISON

February 6, 2007

TO: Members, House Appropriations Committee
FROM: Brian Judy, NRA – ILA State Liaison
RE: House Bill 343 - **SUPPORT**

.....

On behalf of the more than 27,000 Montana members of the National Rifle Association, I urge your support for HB 343, the measure that would appropriate funds for state participation in a lawsuit against the federal government regarding wolf-delisting.

There is substantial evidence that wolves are taking a terrible toll on game populations, especially elk. In communicating with hunters, outfitters and guides in states such as Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, the rate of hunter success has decreased significantly in just over two years and they have determined that the explanation is the explosive wolf population, based upon the tracks they have found. Winters have been harsh and browse has been good, especially when it comes to calves – wolves no longer contain themselves to preying on the old and the infirm elk.

It's the NRA's belief that wolves have their place in the natural ecosystem but their numbers have to be controlled in the same manner as all other animals. The best means of control is through regulated hunting.

Without a change, sport hunting will be seriously harmed, as has been experienced in neighboring states.